(b) if so, the details of such projects as on date, city-wise;

(c) whether this type of projects are economical as compared to LPG connections;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these projects are going to be started in other cities; and

(f) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Currently, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), a Joint Venture company promoted by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), is supplying piped natural gas for cooking purposes in the city of Delhi, while Mahanagar Gas Limited, a Joint Venture company promoted by GAIL and M/s British Gas, is supplying the same in Mumbai. A private company, namely, Gujarat Gas Company Limited has a similar project in Surat and Ankleshwar in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) Currently, the consumers are paying less for the piped gas than for the Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections. The difference varies from place to place and time to time.

(e) and (f) On the request of Andhra Pradesh, an allocation of 1 lakh cubic meters per day of natural gas has been made to the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited for taking up the piped gas scheme in the coastal towns of Andhra Pradesh. A request has also been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for allocation of Natural Gas to take up City Gas Distribution Schemes in Lucknow and Bareilly. These projects are in preliminary stages.

Foreign equity in oil sector

†1714. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted 100 per cent foreign equity in the oil sector;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether 100 per cent foreign equity will have any adverse effect on Government undertakings of the oil sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to save them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) With a view to attracting foreign investment, Government have allowed 100 per cent foreign equity in the exploration and refining activities in oil sector in the country which are highly capital intensive. Consumers would eventually be benefited due to induction of better technology, improved productivity, quality products, better business practices, competition etc. Government have initiated a number of measures to improve their performance. These, inter- alia, include improvement in production and productivity, upgradation of technology, product developments, reduction in input cost, various cost control measures, research and development activities, etc. Government is constantly monitoring their performance. The process of review by the Government is a continuous one.

Nitish Sen Gupta Report on Petroleum Sector

1715. SHRI BRAHMKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Nitish Sen Gupta panel for Petroleum Sector submitted its report;

(b) the number of recommendations of the Committee;

(c) the details of recommendations accepted; and

(d) the details of non-accepted recommendations, recommendation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The main recommendations of the Nitish Sen Gupta Committee report which was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.